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CANADA'S NEW GOVERNMENT FUNDS SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECTS IN SASKATCHEWAN

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Regina, Saskatchewan (April 5, 2007) – The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, today announced funding for education facilities projects for First Nation schools in Saskatchewan, totalling $720,000.This funding is part of the federal government's national announcement of more than $50 million for school infrastructure projects across Canada.

"By investing in the construction and expansion of schools, we will be able to improve the quality of education in First Nations communities and help students to achieve their full academic potential," said Minister Prentice.

"Today's announcement is evidence that Canada's New Government is moving on its commitment to improve the quality of life for Aboriginals across Canada," said the Honourable Carol Skelton, Regional Minister for Saskatchewan.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada will invest in the following projects:

Pelican Narrows High School: This renovation and expansion project is to initiate detailed design work on a proposed renovation/expansion project to a school built in 1989. The total project cost is presently estimated at $14 million and work will be performed over several years according to the priority of various renovation aspects.

James Smith School: This funding was used to deal with an emergency situation that resulted from the sprinkler system freezing over the computer lab and causing significant damage, estimated at $500,000. This renovation project also included the replacement of the school's roof.

Canada's New Government continues to make investments for education facilities across Canada to support projects such as construction, renovation, repair, and design and planning projects, including operation and maintenance, to improve learning environments.

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